

been subjected to a reign of terror which has seen the murder of priests, the rape of nuns, the burning of churches, attacks on Christian schools and prayer halls, and other incidents carried out by supporters of the pro-Fascist Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh (RSS), the parent organization of the ruling BJP, which was formed in support of the Nazis. RSS activists also burned missionary Graham Staines and his two young sons, ages 8 and 10, to death while they slept in their jeeps. The killers gathered around the jeep chanting "Victory to Hannuman," a Hindu god. Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee told an audience in New York last year, "I will always be a Swayamsewak."

India is also anti-American. According to the May 18, 1999 issue of the Indian Express, the Indian Defense Minister met with the Ambassadors from terrorist countries Iraq, Libya, and Cuba, as well as Red China, Russia, and Serbia, to set up a security alliance "to stop the U.S." India voted with the dictators to throw the United States off the UN Human Rights Commission. It votes against America at the United Nations more often than any country except Cuba. It voted to suppress a U.S.-sponsored resolution critical of China's human-rights violations. It was a strong Soviet ally.

This is an ideal opportunity to begin a Shantmai Morcha and form a Khalsa Raj party to achieve independence for Khalistan and to liberate the other countries seeking their freedom from Indian occupation. Remember the words of former Akal Takht Jathedar Professor Darshan Singh: "If a Sikh is not Khalistani, he is not a Sikh." Self-determination is the right of all people and nations.

Pro-Khalistan handbills were handed out at the Golden Temple on June 7 during the commemoration of Gallughara Divas and Sant Bhindranwale's martyrdom. Ajmer Singh Lakhowal, the head of the Bharat Kisan Union, has called for self-determination for the Sikhs. The flame of freedom burns bright in the hearts of the Sikhs.

When we liberate Khalistan, we will be more respected, appreciated, and understood by Americans and throughout the world. We must take this occasion to renew our commitment to free Khalistan. Every Sikh should put a bumper sticker on his or her car saying "INDIA FREE KHALISTAN." This sticker is available from this office.

In 1947, when India was divided, the cunning and deceitful Hindu leadership promised that Sikhs would have the glow of freedom in Punjab and that no law affecting Sikh rights would be passed without Sikh consent. As soon as the transfer of power had occurred and India was free, those promises were broken. Instead, India began its effort to wipe out the Sikh people, the Sikh Nation, and the Sikh religion.

Sikhs gave over 80 percent of the sacrifices to free India from the British. At that time, they were only 1.6 percent of the population. Sikhs are the ones who suffered the most after the freedom and partition of India. Fifty percent of the Sikh population had to migrate from the Pakistan side of Punjab to the Indian side of Punjab. Sikhs were prosperous farmers in West Punjab. They lost their fertile farming land. When they were allotted lands in Indian Punjab, everyone got a cut between 25 and 95 percent of their acreage.

In a free Khalistan, there will be economic prosperity. The Punjab farmers will be able to sell their produce at high prices in the international market and buy cheaper fertilizers, insecticides, and seeds. Farm produce will not lie in the market for weeks without buyers as it did during the sale of the rice crop last year.

We must have a full, free, and fair plebiscite on the status of Khalistan and we must

launch a Shantmai Morcha to liberate our homeland. India is not one nation. It has 18 official languages. Let us take this opportunity to bring freedom to our homeland and all the countries of South Asia.

#### IN REMEMBRANCE OF ROGER HERNON

#### HON. JAMES A. TRAFICANT, JR.

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 16, 2001*

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, today, I was deeply saddened to hear of the passing of Roger Herson.

Roger Herson was a great American, and is to be commended for his accomplishments as the city of Warren Fire Chief and City Councilman. He leaves behind a wife, Norma; nine sons; 18 grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Roger first began his firefighting career in May of 1960 when he was hired as a Warren firefighter. He was then promoted to fire chief in 1978. Roger was also a founding member of the Irish Heritage Society, where he earned the "Erin Go Bragh Irishman" of the Year Award in 1985. Not only did Roger serve his community as a Warren City Councilman-At-Large, but he also served his country in the Korean war where he was awarded the Purple Heart.

Roger Herson will be sorely missed, and I extend my deepest sympathy to his family.

#### TRIBUTE TO JUSTICE JAMES H. BRICKLEY

#### HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 16, 2001*

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, yesterday a memorial service was held to honor and remember an exceptional distinguished citizen of our State of Michigan.

Jim Brickley life's work spanned all three branches of government. Early in his career, he served as a legislator on the Detroit Common Council. He served in the Executive Branch, in state government twice as Lieutenant Governor and much earlier in the FBI after he graduated law school in 1954. His legal career encompassed work in early years as an assistant prosecutor, later as a U.S. attorney and at the end of his public career as a Justice and Chief Justice of the Michigan Supreme Court.

The public careers of few individuals ever achieve such a broad scope. What is even more remarkable is the talent and integrity which Jim Brickley brought to each segment of his life's work. He also brought a decency and humanity into public life that reflected his numerous, diverse relationships in his private life cutting across all racial, religious and ethnic lines.

Michigan will miss Jim Brickley. He was an exceptional public servant. We send our deepest condolences to his wife Joyce Braithwaite and the entire family.

#### A TRIBUTE TO DR. RUTH GRUBER

#### HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 16, 2001*

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in tribute to Dr. Ruth Gruber who recently celebrated her ninetieth birthday on September 30th, 2001. A courageous leader, devoted humanitarian, acclaimed journalist, and loving grandmother, Dr. Gruber's contribution to New York and our nation is immeasurable.

At the age of 20, Dr. Gruber became the youngest Ph.D. in the world. That, a remarkable achievement in and of itself, was only the first of many unprecedented accomplishments. In 1944, at the request of then Secretary of the Interior Harold Ickes, Dr. Gruber was sent on a top secret mission to escort 1,000 refugees from war-torn Europe to America. After safely arriving back in the United States, she immediately led the charge to ensure that the refugees be allowed to stay in the country permanently.

Dr. Gruber's talents as a journalist took her to all corners of the globe. She was the first foreign correspondent to enter the Soviet gulag, an experience which she chronicled in her book, *I Went to the Soviet Arctic*. She visited Korea and Vietnam to write *They Came to Stay*, a book about 10 Korean children who had been adopted by families in the United States. Through her many books and articles Dr. Gruber has been our eyes on the world. We are fortunate that she went to places she knew we needed to see and told such compelling stories.

In February, CBS will air *Haven*, a four hour documentary chronicling Dr. Gruber's exceptional life. At age ninety, she still has plans to write more books, although much of her time is spent with her precious grandchildren. It is my privilege to thank Dr. Gruber for all she has done for our society, and of course, to wish her a happy ninetieth birthday.

#### HONORING THELMA HERMAN

#### HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 16, 2001*

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it brings me great pleasure to have the opportunity to congratulate Thelma Herman, who recently celebrated her 103rd birthday. It isn't often that one encounters a person with such longevity and, according to her friends at Belmont Senior Care, she is still going strong.

Thelma has spent much of her life living in Pueblo, Colorado. As a young adult, she worked as a telephone operator and at a pharmacy. She has outlived both of her siblings and has only one surviving relative. Thelma cannot quite nail down exactly why she has survived so long, but she has always been relatively healthy. Thelma has developed a wide variety of healthy habits throughout her life including drinking a glass of water with every meal, taking a walk each day, never snacking between meals and brushing her teeth several times per day. Her advice to young Americans today is to be a good citizen. Thelma has been a good role model and citizen who has voted nearly her entire life.

Mr. Speaker, it brings me great pleasure to congratulate Thelma for this phenomenal achievement. She is an exceptional individual and I wish her only the best and continued prosperity. Happy Birthday Thelma!

#### OPPRESSION OF AFGHAN WOMEN

##### HON. EARL F. HILLIARD

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 16, 2001*

Mr. HILLIARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my distress over the oppression of Afghan women. These women, who only won their freedom for a few years in all of history, have been driven back into oppression by a brutal, violent and blindly ignorant regime. Forced by the Taliban out of the schools allowed by former ruler Nur Mohammed Taraki, women are now uneducated. Women cannot work, but can be forced to beg for bread.

Women are forbidden to sing or listen to music, and will be viciously beaten if seen in public with men who are not relatives. Women in today's Afghanistan cannot be treated by a male doctor, and will be killed if they are treated by one. The life expectancy of Afghan women is 43, almost half that of American women. This vicious oppression is not the will of God or of any decent man.

Women have been oppressed throughout the ages by every society on earth, but have gone a long way toward gaining freedom and dignity. Afghanistan's brutal rulers and their fundamentalist counterparts in other religions must not be allowed to destroy the lives, the futures, and the honor of women.

This Congress must support these desperate victims and any counterparts they have in any other part of the world. People of faith from every nation and every religion must unite to end all use of twisted religious rhetoric, to oppress any person. We must apply this principle to Afghanistan now, and to our own lives everyday.

#### TRIBUTE TO BOB LARSON, FOUNDER OF NORTHWOODS AIRLIFELINE

##### HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 16, 2001*

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Michigan resident Bob Larson, a man who turned his own passion for flying into a non-profit, lifesaving organization that serves the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

Bob is the prime mover behind Northwoods Airlifeline, an organization of pilots who volunteer their time and aircraft to help obtain medical assistance unavailable in Upper Michigan. Since Bob conceived the service in 1989, Northwoods Airlifeline has flown more than 1,100 missions—all free of charge, Mr. Speaker—to destinations all around the Midwest.

Northwoods Airlifeline fills a gap in critical services by transporting patients who may be financially distressed, who may be unable to travel by car or commercial transportation, or who for medical reasons may face severe time constraints.

The primary need of individuals served by Northwoods Airlifeline has been organ transplants, since there is no facility in Upper Michigan to perform this procedure. The service has also met the needs of chronically-ill people who cannot afford to fly or drive long distances, and it has transported medical patients who are beyond medical help to be with their loved ones.

Bob Larson, a native of Minneapolis, Minnesota, and a World War II Navy veteran, took flying lessons after he left the service and went to work in Chicago, where he bought his first plane in 1958.

But Bob, along with Ruth, his wife of 57 years, who is a registered nurse, eventually moved back to the North Woods, settling in the small town of Witch Lake in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. The Larsons shared a dream of forming an air medical service to assist friends and neighbors in times of medical emergency.

From these two caring, giving, loving individuals Northwoods Airlifeline was born, and it is still coordinated by Bob today. The organization recruits volunteer pilots, operates a dispatching network to receive and fill requests for transportation, and conducts community education and fund raising programs for its services. There are no salaried personnel or rental expenses. Pilots and volunteers absorb fuel costs and other expenses, and all donations go toward the administrative costs of transporting those in need.

The high regard in which the service is held can be summed up in the comments of a man who was flown out of state for a surgical procedure, "Well, I have met some real-life angels, wings included," he said, "only their wings are attached to the airplanes they fly."

Bob Larson is being honored on Oct. 20 by Iron Mountain Chapter #44, Order of the Eastern Star, which has selected him as the 13th recipient of the annual Eastern Star Community Service Award. The purpose of the award is to recognize an individual, not affiliated with any Masonic or Masonic-related organization, who has shown unselfish dedication for the betterment of the community and the world in general.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage you and all our House colleagues to go on the World Wide Web at [www.northwoodsairlifeline.org](http://www.northwoodsairlifeline.org) and read about the other men and women who make this vital service possible, and read the wonderful stories of the families that Northwoods Airlifeline has assisted.

We say that dreamers have their heads in the clouds, Mr. Speaker, but maybe it's up in the clouds, where Bob Larson spent so much time, that one gains the best perspective of the world and the place of each individual in it. So I ask you to join me in celebrating the accomplishments of two dreamers, Bob and Ruth Larson, and the wonderful volunteer organization they have brought into being.

#### ON INTRODUCTION OF THE TERRORIST RESPONSE TAX EXEMPTION ACT

##### HON. J. RANDY FORBES

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 16, 2001*

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, tonight, I rise with my colleague, Congressman VITO

FOSSELLA of New York, to introduce the Terrorist Response Tax Exemption Act, which would provide our first responders with the tax benefits that they deserve for serving on the front lines of our war against terrorism.

As we speak, men and women are putting their lives at risk to fight terrorist threats both abroad and at home. For the American military personnel who are overseas, the federal government currently excludes from taxable income the salary they receive in any month they serve in a combat zone. This is a suitable recognition of the increased risk in which they place themselves to protect our freedoms and of the increased burdens on their families given that risk.

But, today, we know that the men and women who serve as fire, rescue, and police personnel can be just as much at risk. Terrorists have brought the frontlines into our communities, and it is these first responders that are first on the scene, first to assess the situation, and first to respond to the needs of the victims. As the World Trade Center attack has proven, they are just as much in jeopardy of losing their lives as the soldiers and sailors engaged overseas—perhaps even more so as our military technology advances. They and their families deserve the same tax benefits for serving in terrorist attack zones.

That is precisely what the Terrorist Response Tax Exemption Act does. It exempts from federal income the basic pay that a uniformed civilian employee earns for any month in which they serve the public in a terrorist attack zone. It provides well-deserved recognition of the hard and dangerous work that these individuals perform. The Senate companion bill, S. 1446, has already been endorsed by the Fraternal Order of Police, the International Association of Fire Chiefs, and other organizations that represent our public safety personnel.

It is not that we anticipate that this tax incentive will encourage this kind of heroic public service. In fact, we know for a fact that these men and women perform their duties out of a sense of honor and an overwhelming desire to help others in need. But, we should show them our gratitude with more than words of thanks. I encourage my colleagues to join us in cosponsoring this legislation.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF ANTHONY T. CAPOZZOLO

##### HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 16, 2001*

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to honor the life and memory of Anthony T. "Capps" Capozzolo, a man who always sought to brighten the horizons for others, especially through increasing educational opportunities.

Born at his father's dairy farm in Pueblo, Colorado, Capps learned what hard work was at a very early age. At one time, he sold newspapers while attending school and tending to the chores of his family's farm. Capps followed his heart, however, and proved to be a fantastic dancer. At the age of 18, Capps left Pueblo and joined his brother in California where he pursued his passion for dancing. It was here that he met his dance partner, Theresa Harmon, who would eventually become